

*His Character, Court, and
Chroniclers 301*

Renascence, he was a patron of what science there was in that age, showing a constant interest in mathematics, geography, and kindred sciences. His interest in fortification was natural in one who was both a conqueror and a statesman, and we might apply to him the title of a "mediaeval Vauban" were we in possession of fuller details of his castle-building. But everywhere we see him securing conquered territory with strong fortresses well-manned with garrisons; thus Naples during a long siege is hemmed in by a ring of castles, The model of his fortifications was the rock-castle of Caiazzo, which, taken from Ramulf in 1135, he rebuilt, making it so strong that he declared it was well-fitted to defend his crown, On the feudatories and the townsfolk who dwelt around it he imposed the stringent duty of its upkeep and laid upon them the responsibility of "castle-guard," At the close of his final victory he had bridled the whole of the mainland with numerous strongly-defended royal fortresses, and had deprived his barons of the right to erect castles save where the jealous power of the Crown gave permission. His victory indeed was largely owing to his fortifications, to which he

trusted far
more than to pitched battles, and we
have already
quoted the vivid words of a chronicler
of the time
as to the extensive system of defence
along all the
frontiers and coasts which obtained
at the close
of the wars in 1144,
It was under Roger that Palermo
became the